

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /076 W

----- 087544

R 221404Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6769

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12501

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJ: CONVOY ATTACKED ON ASSAB ROAD

REF: ADDIS ABABA 12292

1. OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES INFORMED US ON OCT 17 THAT A CONVOY OF APPROXIMATELY 100 TRUCKS EN ROUTE TO ADDIS ABABA WAS ATTACKED 80 KM SOUTH OF ASSAB ON OCT 16. SOURCES INDICATE THAT ONE FUEL TANKER AND 14-15 FLATBED TRUCKS WERE DESTROYED. THREE OTHER TANKERS WERE DAMAGED. ACTION REPORTEDLY LASTED TWO HOURS AND ATTACKERS USED MINES TO STOP CONVOY AND THEN HAND GRENADES, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND POSSIBLY MORTARS TO COMPLETE THE DESTRUCTION. GOVT RELIEF FORCE SENT TO EXTRICATE CONVOY WAS ALSO AMBUSHED AND OTHER SOURCES TELL US THAT AS MANY AS 100 TO 120 SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING THE COLONEL IN COMMAND OF THE RELIEF FORCE (SEE IR 6 830 0509 75). OUR SURCES ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER TO ATTRIBUTE ATTACK TO ELF OR  
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AFAR BUT USE OF MORTARS WOULD INDICATE PROBABLE ELF

INVOLVEMENT.

2. SINCE NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR INSURGENTS IS TO ATTACK FUEL TANKERS, CARGO TRUCK DRIVERS HAVE GENERALLY LAGGED BEHIND THE OIL TANKER CONVOY FOR SAFETY. ON THIS OCCASION THE ATTACKERS ALLOWED THE TANK TRUCKS TO PASS THROUGH AND CONCENTRATED ON THE FLATBEDS.

3. ANOTHER CONVOY HAS ARRIVED HERE FROM ASSAB SINCE THIS INCIDENT AND A THIRD CONVOY IS ALREADY EN ROUTE. FUEL SUPPLIES HAVE NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED AS A RESULT OF THIS ATTACK.  
HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRORISTS, PETROLEUM TRANSPORTATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ADDIS12501  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750367-0679  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 74  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 ADDIS ABABA 12292  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVOY ATTACKED ON ASSAB ROAD  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ET  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006